

Bloomfield Citizen.

A WEEKLY JOURNAL

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**The CITIZEN solicits contributions from
the general public on any subject—po-
litical, religious, educational, or social—
so long as they do not contain any personal
attacks.**

All communications must be accompanied
by the writer's name, not necessarily for
publication, but as an evidence of good faith.

Advertisements for insertion in the cur-
rent paper must be in hand not later than
Friday noon.

SATURDAY, MARCH 12, 1892.

SHALL THE TOWNSHIP BE DI- VIDED?

The unexpected introduction of a bill into the Legislature for the purpose of setting off a new township, to be known as Glen Ridge, has brought the question, Shall the township be divided? prominently before the mind of every resident of Bloomfield. The answers to it are many, but may be roughly grouped as follows: Yes, by forming the village of Glen Ridge within the township; yes by forming a separate township of Glen Ridge, which shall consist of the same territory as the proposed village, with a little territory from Montclair; yes, by making a separate township of the northern end of Bloomfield, sometimes known as Brookdale; no, the township of Bloomfield must be in no manner divided.

We shall present some of the arguments for and against each of these propositions, stating as fairly as possible the opinions of the advocates of each scheme, as we understand them. If any are stated amiss, we shall be most willing to print corrections. If we do not state them fully, we shall be most happy to publish any additional views on the subject.

We are informed by a member of the Legislature that the bill for the creation of the township of Glen Ridge has "evaporated." We have therefore nothing to say concerning it, except that it exemplifies a most vicious principle in the conduct of public affairs. If the township is to be divided, let it be done after full, free and careful consideration by all parties interested. It is most satisfactory that the people of Glen Ridge are heartily and sincerely opposed to any dark-lantern methods of legislation and repudiate with great unanimity any "rushing through" of bills in the Legislature.

Glen Ridge under the so-called Village Act has been already very fully discussed; and even those who were at first in favor of such separate municipal existence for Glen Ridge, as would be afforded through the Village Act, have grown very doubtful as to its ultimate advantages. Probably the most disliked, if not fatal, objections to the village scheme are, first, that the village still remains part of the township for certain purposes, so that its people would be living under two governments; second, the unhappy physiognomy of the bill, which renders it impossible to state with certainty what would be the future existence of a municipality formed under it; third, the arbitrary powers of the village Board of Trustees. The reasons urged in favor of the village formation are almost identical with those urged in favor of the making of a new township, and need not therefore be here stated. The best informed residents of Glen Ridge consider that the expediency of the village formation has become so doubtful, that it would be impossible to obtain the necessary signatures to the petition, or the necessary votes of the people; and that if Glen Ridge is to go off at all, it must go off as a separate township.

The movement looking to the formation of a separate township of Glen Ridge is the outgrowth of two opinions—that Glen Ridge should separate from the rest of Bloomfield, and that the village separation is negatived by its many inherent difficulties and objectionable features! The reasons given for separation are, that while the district of the township known as Glen Ridge pays a very large percentage of the taxes of the township, the Township Committee persistently refuses to expend anything like a proper proportion of money for roads, gas, sidewalks and water in that district (the figures have been heretofore given); that the Township Committee is not a representative body of the taxpayers, but that its members come from or are ruled by elements of population, which are antagonistic to the interests of the class of citizens residing in Glen Ridge; that these antagonistic elements are determined to deprive the people of Glen Ridge of every advantage, so far as it lies within their power, and that the incompetent and terrorized Township Committee is the obedient slave of the enemies of the people of Glen Ridge; that while the conservative, disinterested and patriotic citizens of Bloomfield at large may be, and doubtless are, in favor of doing justice to the people of Glen Ridge, that they have lost all control of the township government and are powerless to enforce their ideas; that Glen Ridge is largely com-

posed of new-comers, who are not bound to the rest of Bloomfield by any ties of family, friendship or association, and forming therefore a separate community, and coming in contact with Bloomfield only through a hostile, servile and incompetent Committee, are anxious to be freed from it; that the separation will enable them to enjoy the society and companionship of Bloomfielders of their own class, and free them from the attacks of a population which is determined to deprive them of their rights; that the name Glen Ridge has become an important element of real estate values and otherwise and must be preserved, at all hazards; and that the Glen Ridge Post-office, both as a means of preserving the name Glen Ridge and as a convenience, can only be retained by separation politically from the rest of Bloomfield.

The arguments against a separation are, that while it is admitted that Glen Ridge has received scant consideration from previous Township Committees, it has been the result of other forces than those assigned by the people of Glen Ridge; that it is untrue that the better elements of the township have lost all power to enforce their ideas upon Township Committees; that there exists at the present time a widespread feeling that Glen Ridge should receive a greater proportion of the township money, and that there is a determination to see that there is no "monkey business" in the distribution of the public funds next year; that the people of Glen Ridge would find out after a separation that they would have as many political evils to deal with in the new township as in the old; that many of the most evil influences in politics are at times concealed beneath swallow-tail coats; that two smalltownships would be deprived of many statutory and political advantages which are enjoyed by one large one; that if the high-minded citizens of Glen Ridge would unite with the other high-minded citizens of the township and expend their energy in attending primary meetings, and in the performance of other political duties, the "evil elements" could be driven into a hole and kept there; that the union of Glen Ridge with the rest of the township is political and not social, and therefore they may have as much of a "separate community" as circumstances may determine, without in the least conflicting with political union; that the new-comers will eventually become old residents, and will gradually form many and pleasant ties with those solid elements of society for which Bloomfield has been long distinguished; that the separation of territory would make a separation of interest, and might create two social and political communities to the dis-

advantage of the cherished privilege, the possible loss of which is causing the greatest alarm in Glen Ridge; the people of the rest of the township have no desire whatsoever to abolish it, but will lend all possible aid in preserving it.

Those opposed to this separation of Glen Ridge are not confined to those living outside of its proposed boundaries. There are even now not a few old residents of Bloomfield living in the district of Glen Ridge, and those opponents are convinced that there is neither reason nor necessity for the separation, and that a little friendly discussion of the merits of the case will lead to a closer union and not to a separation.

As there is now no need of haste, and this article has already reached the limits of the patience of our readers, we shall continue our discussion of the subject next week.

A Town Hall.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE CITIZEN:

SIR: Whom have we in Bloomfield with public spirit and pluck enough to build a Town Hall? Why the Woman's Christian Temperance Union, of course. Come, who will help us? Subscriptions are in order. We intend to begin now.

MRS. THOMAS W. SMITH,
President W. C. T. U.
BLOOMFIELD, March 10.

The glitter and charm of romantic, not real, life are to be found in the stories that the publishers of *Town Topics* are sending out in book form under the title "Tales from *Town Topics*." In the third number of the publication, which has just come to hand, the usual light and fascinating treatment of strange themes distinguishes the fiction that is presented, while the wit is as daring and the poems as excellent as any that have already sprung from the same fountainhead. *Town Topics*, 21 West 23d Street, New York.

The Old Home of Thomas Jefferson.
Jefferson's old home at Monticello stands on the summit of a beautiful mountain near Charlottesville, and commands an unsurpassed view of the surrounding country. On a clear day the old capital of the Confederacy, sixty miles away, may be seen. The mansion is of the modernized type of Greek architecture, with rotunda and Corinthian columns. For years it has been the favorite resort of tourists, and it is not an unusual event to see parties of a hundred ladies and gentlemen clad in tourists' clothes and Coward's Celebrated Shoes, climbing the mountain side to visit the home of the patriot and statesman—the author of the never to be forgotten Declaration of Independence.—Adt.

The New Canal Bridge.
The water has been let out of the Morris Canal and the company is ready to rebuild the bridge at the lock on Montgomery Street as soon as the Orange Water Company removes the water-main from the bridge.

G. Pier of Race Street has been seriously ill the past few weeks.

Blucher's Piccadilly Toe \$2, at Shoenthal's.—Adt.

A Library for Glen Ridge.

A longing which for several years possessed the souls of some of the ladies of Glen Ridge at last bids fair to be realized. Their hopes and plans have been for a library with books for circulation and more valuable ones for reference; a library well equipped both amusement and instruction, modest withdrawal, and in no sense intended as a rival of the great Mercantile and other New York city institutions, which still remain available to those who have time or inclination to patronize them.

The project first took definite form in the Glen Ridge Book Club, which was organized in the spring of 1890.

The active promoters of this were a number of ladies, who since 1889 have been associated for historical reading and mutual improvement in a small club called the "Clo." They secured five subscribers to the Book Club, each of whom paid \$2.50. With this were bought one hundred and four books, mostly of recent date, and one-half somewhat weightier matter—biographies, histories, etc. These books remained in circulation among the subscribers until last month, each one receiving two books every two weeks. They were then collected and to the nucleus of a library thus formed over one hundred and fifty books have since been contributed by friends, and as many more are promised.

For the present the library is located in the school-room of Miss Northall, whose interest and zeal the success of the enterprise largely due. It is now open for the drawing of books every Tuesday afternoon, from two to five o'clock, and the payment of \$2.50 entitles subscribers to the use of it for one year.

It is desired to increase the number of books for circulation as rapidly as possible and also to provide some standard works of reference. To this end a library party will be held on Saturday evening, March 19, at Miss Northall's School. All friends of the enterprise, both in Bloomfield and Glen Ridge, are cordially invited to attend and to bring a book, either old or new, or an equivalent in money. An entertaining programme has been arranged, including some fine music, and light refreshments will be sold.

The entertainment will be under the auspices of the members of the "Clo"; Mrs. Chas. T. Dodd, Mrs. J. S. Gallagher, Mrs. Frederic P. Reed, Mrs. Joseph D. Gallagher, Miss Gallagher, Miss Northall, Miss MacIntosh, Mrs. Frank M. Gregory, Mrs. W. A. Bryant, Mrs. Edward P. Mitchell, Mrs. Frank J. Goodwin, Miss Hazlett and Mrs. William Ford Upson.

Parliamentarians in this town have had an interesting topic for discussion during the week in determining whether or no Mr. Gilbert's ruling last Monday night sustaining Mr. Rayner's point of order was according to Cushing. The circumstance was as follows: Mr. Halfpenny offered a motion that the bill of the Town Counsel, amounting to \$300, for services in the Inness case be paid. This motion was defeated at meeting a few weeks since, Messrs. Rayner, Cock-fair, and Gilbert voting against it and Messrs. Halfpenny and Seibert voting for it. Mr. Rayner raised the point of order on Monday night that a motion to reconsider must come from a member who voted in the negative. Mr. Gilbert sustained Mr. Rayner and the matter was dropped. Mr. Halfpenny contemplated an appeal from the decision of the Chair, but Mr. Seibert expressed an opinion to the effect that he thought the Chairman was right, and a great many others are of the same opinion.

Mr. Halfpenny's friends claim that the Chairman was wrong. They admit that when a motion is voted down in a meeting, to bring it up again in that same meeting the motion to reconsider must come from a negative voter, but after the meeting adjourns any member can bring the matter up in a subsequent meeting.

Mr. Rayner said that he had no desire to oppose the bill on mere technical grounds. He simply raised the point of order on account of the absence of Mr. Cock-fair, who voted in the negative, and who perhaps might desire to be heard on the subject. Mr. Halfpenny stated that Mr. Cock-fair had publicly declared that he would not attend another meeting of the Committee. Mr. Rayner said that if Mr. Cock-fair was notified that the bill was coming up and refused to attend, he himself would offer the motion to reconsider the bill.

Mr. Hummell who seconded Mr. Halfpenny's motion, spoke in favor of the payment of the bill on the ground that the town had benefited from the Counsel's work.

Mr. Gilbert asked Mr. Hummell why he had so strenuously insisted on fixing a definite salary at the commencement of the year.

Mr. Hummell replied that he did not consider that the Inness matter could be considered as a part of the agreement of the present year.

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List of Patents

Granted to New Jersey inventors this week, reported by C. A. Snow & Co., Solicitors of American and Foreign Patents, Opp. Patent Office, Washington, D. C.: O. W. Castner, Newark, razor-strop; J. T. Cox, Camden, can-filling machine; A. H. Decamp, Boonton, aerial tramway and cable-grip; F. W. Dunbar, Newark, electro-magnetic annunciator; E. F. Edgar, Woodbridge, vapor-generator and burner; L. W. Hammond, North Plainfield, blind-fastener; J. B. Hurd, Red Bank, telegraph apparatus for branch offices; F. M. Jeffery, Jersey City, machine for making coil-springs; A. W. Wheaton, Newark, tray spring-clamp.

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